Funding of urban infrastructure

40. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 63,000 crore would be needed every year for urban infrastructure in the next 10 years;

(b) if so, whether at least Rs. 10,000 crore is required for providing core services by urban local bodies;

(c) if so, how the Ministry is planning to pool the resources for this purpose;

(d) whether it is also a fact that RBI's Development Research Group has carried out a study on municipal finance; and

(e) if so, the details of the outcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be tabled in the floor of the House later.

Committee on Wholesale Price Index

†41. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to improve the present Wholesale Price Index by bringing about considerable change in it;

(b) if so, whether any committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Abhijit Sen for this purpose;

(c) if so, the responsibilities basically entrusted to this committee; and

(d) by when this committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A Working Group has been set up under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, Member, Planning Commission to revise the current series of Wholesale Price Index.

(c) The Working Group is entrusted, *inter alia*, with the responsibility of updating the base to a more recent period, enhancing the coverage of the product basket and deriving weighting Diagram which will reflect the structural changes that have taken place in the economy.

(d) The current tenure of the Working Group is till March 31, 2008.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.